

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, Paragraph 2

In accordance with the invention, a simple and substantially linear motion in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the pole handle or of the ski pole is sufficient to lock the hand retaining device via its first connecting element, thereby simultaneously utilizing counter pressure for the locking process generated by the ski pole itself via its support on the ground. This facilitates and accelerates at least the connecting motion without requiring assistance by the respective other hand.

Page 3, paragraph 7

The pole handle 10 shown in the drawing in accordance with a preferred embodiment comprises a basic body 12 which is produced e.g. from an injection-molded part of plastic material. The direct handle region of the basic body 12 is provided with a ~~cover~~ coating 14 of easy-to-grip material which is introduced into a peripheral groove 13 in the basic body 12 (shown in the drawing). The pole handle 10 is attached onto and over a pole tube 16 of a cross-country ski, alpine or nordic walking pole and is rigidly connected thereto (preferably glued or pressed).

Page 4 and 5, bridging paragraph

A two-armed lever 41 is pivotally held within the recess 26 via ~~an~~ a pivot axle 42 such that it is parallel to the side surfaces 36, 37 of the basic body 12. The pivot axis 42 traverses the recess 26 in an upper rear region and is disposed or held in bores of the two side surfaces 36 and 37. The two-armed lever has an actuating arm 43 which projects outwardly through the opening 27 in the handle head front face 22. A locking arm 44 of the two-armed lever 41 is integral with

the actuating arm 43 with the two arms 43 and 44 subtending an obtuse angle. The pivot axle 42 penetrates through the two-armed lever 41 in a region of the locking arm 44 proximate to the actuating arm 43. The locking arm 44 has a connecting element 46 in the form of a nose which terminates close to the front narrow side 21 of the basic body 12 having the longitudinal slit 31 and is provided with an inclined guiding surface 47 at its side facing away from the bottom 28 of the recess 26

Page 5, Paragraph 1

The two-armed lever 41 is loaded by a pressure spring 52 which is designed as a helical spring in the present case and one end of which is supported on the locking arm 44 of the lever 41 within the recess 26 and whose other end is immersed into a bore 54 which extends from the rear narrow side 23 to the inner recess delimitation 25 and is supported on a stop which is formed by a screw 56 inserted from the outside into the rear narrow side 23 of the basic body 12. The pressure spring 52 which extends in a slightly curved manner and is immersed in a blind bore 58 in the locking arm 44 pretensions the two-armed lever 41 into a rest position in which the actuating arm 43 abuts an edge region 48 of the recess 27. The connecting element 46 of the locking arm 44 is thereby proximate to the longitudinal slit 31 in the front narrow side 21. In accordance with arrow A, the two-armed lever 41 can be pivoted about the pivot axis axle 42, wherein the pivot delimitation is determined on the one hand by the edge region 48 of the recess 27 26 and on the other hand by the spring path of the pressure spring 52.

Page 6, paragraph 1

In accordance with one embodiment (not shown), the pressure spring 52 is designed as an approximately V-shaped leaf spring whose legs are supported on the inner side on a locking arm

44 and on the opposite side surface 25 of the recess 26 and whose apex faces the edge region 48 of the recess 27 26.

Page 6, paragraph 2

A toggle strap 11 or another holding device for the hand of a skier, such as e.g. a glove, can be detachably locked to the pole handle 10 (wherein FIG. 1 only shows the mounting section 62 of a strap 60). A connecting element 64 which has the approximate shape of a mushroom and which is made from a suitable plastic material or metal is mounted, e.g. screwed to the strap 60. The connecting element 64 has a shaft 66 which is connected to the strap 60 and whose width or diameter is slightly smaller than the width of the longitudinal slit 29 31 in the basic body 12. The length of the shaft 66, which is cylindrical in the present case, corresponds approximately to the depth of the longitudinal slit 31 or the separation between the outer side of the front narrow side 21 and the inner grooves 38 and 39. The shaft 66 is integral with the head 68 which is substantially wider than the shaft 66 and whose peripheral edge has a shape corresponding approximately to the shape of the two grooves 38 and 39, in which the head 68 is guided. The outer cross-sectional dimensions of the connecting element 64 are such that it can be introduced, together with the strap 60 of the toggle strap 11 with hardly any play, from the handle head front face 22, into the longitudinal slit 31 and be removed therefrom as shown by the double arrow B and the positions of FIG. 1 shown in solid and dash-dotted lines.